

PORTFOLIO OF SUPPORT

FOR THE ENGINE HOUSE OF CULTURE

The Jynnji Project

This portfolio collates and references a cross section sample set of the type of supporting letters and statements of local support for this project. The Jynnji project team is receiving such support on a regular basis from local freelance artists; local creative industries; local socially and environmentally conscious people and organisations, and community centred organisations.

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To Whom It May Concern

Cirque Du Ciel gives strong support to the Jynnji Project's aim to develop a cultural & creative hub, in the region. Much needed in order to give support to the many local creatives, socially & environmentally conscious organisations, & individuals, whose viable working practices are under threat of extinction. With the aim of obtaining the measure of long term security & support that they need to continue. Our own organisation needs to stand alongside those of our creative colleagues in support of this project, in order to be able to continue to provide quality resources to local creative professionals, & to continue to support the wider community. In short to do & to create works of high social value, before post pandemic commercial pressures prove terminal for us & for them.

The last 18 months has been tough, financially & emotionally for our organisation, our community, our volunteers & our freelancers. Our work throughout the pandemic has been continual, pro-active & adaptive, within the permissions given to us by both Government & the Charities Commission. It's been a harrowing process to supply provisions & crisis funding to those in need in our community. Also to provide learning support to children in need within the community, & as a haven for local & stranded Circus Professionals needing to maintain their skill sets, whilst unemployed, financially & geographically insecure. Being the positive & uplifting 'happy place' for so many, all we can say is that there is a lot of truth in the make up of a clown hiding a sad face. When we have to go through similar in the future we want to make sure that we can exist & collaborate with a creative community to support each other & survive. This mutual support is going to be necessary in the face of the ongoing impacts of a long term lock down on our economy, our social services & overall infrastructure as a Nation.

This project is also an excellent opportunity to preserve, clean, green & rejuvenate a site desperately in need of such, & to support & empower the local community to utilise it, value it & be proud of it, & all that goes on there.

Yours Sincerely

Naomi Lewis
Charity Manager

Registered office: The Circus 'Works', Unit 1, Greenbank Rd, Devoran, TR3 6PQ

Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No: 4849987

Charity registered in England No: 1106043

CIRQUE DU CIEL LTD – Expression Of Interest and Feedback re ‘Need’**A Supporting Statement for the Jynnji Project– Engine House of Culture**

Cirque Du Ciel Ltd (CDC) is a Registered Charity #1106043, and a Registered Company # 4849987 Limited by Guarantee since 2004, run and directed entirely by volunteers.

Our Memorandum, Articles and last financial report accompany this document. Our Company Accounts can be viewed at present to September 2020.

www.cirqueduciel.org.uk
www.circusworksdevoran.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/CDCcircuscharity> **672** FB* followers **71** IG** followers
<https://www.facebook.com/learncircusincornwall> **687** FB followers **219** IG followers

*Facebook **Instagram

CDC is currently in the process of pay rolling the following individuals, before the end of 2021:-

Leigh Yates BEM BCa Fundraising Bid Writing **£15,000 per annum**

Naomi Lewis Charity Manager (Naomi has held this post on a voluntary basis since June 2018, she now works too many hours for us, and has developed the organisation too well to warrant remaining a volunteer) **£20,000 per annum**

CDC is also currently providing the following individuals with regular work in a freelance capacity

Ross Wheeler	Book keeping – Admin 10 Hours per week @ £11.00 per hour 2 hours Home Ed workshopping per week @ £20.00 per hour Up to 4 hours per month off site workshopping @ £40 -50 per hour (including travel)
Georgy Hopwood	Book keeping & training Ross to use Zero software 10 hours per week @ £11 per hour
Rosi Jolly	2 hours Home Ed workshopping per week @ £20.00 per hour Up to 4 hours per month off site workshopping @ £40-50 per hour (including travel)
Yskynna Dance	Ishita Raina – 2- 4 hours Home Ed workshopping per month @£25.00 per hour (including travel)
Pokya Entertainment	Maya Peters- 2 – 4 hours Home Ed workshopping per month @ £25.00 per hour (including travel)
Airfish Circus	Trevelyan Trevethen – 2-4 hours Home Ed workshopping per month @ £20.00 per hour Up to 4 hours per month off site workshops @ £40-50 per hour (including travel)
Victoria Bartlett	Up to 4 hours per month off site workshops @ £40-50 per hour (including travel)
Morwenna Jyoti	Up to 4 hours per month off site workshops @ £40-50 per hour (including travel)
Angus Capel	Up to 2 hours per month on site workshops @ £15.00 per hour Up to 2 hours per month off site workshops @ £40 per hour (including travel)
Bruce Townsley	Up to 2 hours per month off site workshops @ £40 per hour (including travel)

ADDITIONAL SUMMER SEASON WORK IN 2021 WAS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS ON A FREELANCE BASIS:-

Southwest Domes	Airfish Circus	Stretch Within Tent
Hotchpotch Performance	Vagabond Circus	The Big Friendly Thespian
The Rainbow Circus Company		

IN ORDER TO PRODUCE AND FACILITATE OUR PROGRAM OF SUMMER EVENTS (WHICH ALTHOUGH MUCH REDUCED DUE TO SAFETY RESTRICTIONS) INCLUDED:-

Twice weekly in house **drop in summer schools for kids** 7- 16 yrs old (usually minimum of 20 kids per session).

United Downs Raceway Grafitti Art Project in collaboration with (Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change (CN4C), and the Why Don't You Youth Club – for 30 local young participants their siblings and parents / guardians.

United Downs 'Wacky Raceway' – 1 day of circus workshops, soap box derby's and circus shows from Airfish Circus and our Home Ed Circus School (aka The CDC All Stars) for 300 local participants.

United Downs 'Funderdome' – 2 days of circus workshops, messy family orientated games, and circus shows – for 350-400 participants from the local community.



CDC has been able to collaborate and cross pollinate with Airfish Circus and it's members, with HotchPotch Performance and it's members, Pokya Entertainment and Yskynna Vertical Dance members similarly, to facilitate events; work and performance experience opportunities for young people and enthusiastic adult amateurs; for on and off site workshops and fundraising events, to help CDC in engaging and supporting the local community, utilising the creative arts to do so. These local groups have been open to supporting CDC in facilitating student galas, CDC produced events and fundraisers for approximately 3 years to date.

During the pandemic many of these folk, and many of our users and users family members, helped CDC to identify and support community members in crisis in collaboration with Cornwall Community Foundation and Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change, in meeting their immediate needs via hardship grants (£20K in total), re Heating, Clothing, Provisions, and via our foodbank provision and deliveries, in collaboration with the C.I.O's 'Sparkle Foundation' and 'Fare Share'.

Since re-emerging in 2021 to create performance works, CDC has **commissioned 1 local artist (Cosmic Images) & 1 regional maker** (Tim Timms) to assist with 1 youth art project at United Down Raceway, and to create art pedal go karts, and various soap box vehicles from scrap materials for CDC's event, Wacky Raceway'. These will be reused in collaboration for another community event planned at the raceway in October 2021, that receives support from the Arts Council England 'Bangers and Mash Up'.

CEMENTING TIES WITH THE ACORN THEATRE PENZANCE

Since 2019 CDC has also had an excellent relationship with the Acorn Theatre Penzance, providing Family Friendly Circus Skills sessions there, so children and their parents can learn together. This provision has now been restarted post Covid on behalf of CDC by Ruth Hawkey who conducts these sessions once weekly, roughly in synch with term time over in Penzance, during after school hours on a Monday.

These sessions prove very popular and there is always a waiting list for them. Their popularity is indicative of the lack of available effective, engaging resources and activities for the community in the area, particularly young people and women.

In 2021 CDC assisted the Acorn Theatre to replace it's existing aerial truss, for a new one, required to meet Height Safety criteria, with due regard for the theatre's listed status and beautiful ceiling design. In order to support the theatre's continued ongoing support of the Circus Arts in Cornwall, and to ensure that a theatrical venue on the South Coast can always accommodate local and touring circus artists and companies. As well as continue to try to serve the local need and demand for family friendly and adult circus skills in the area.

CREATING ADDITIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES THAT POSITIVELY PROVISION THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Through our works we not only provide access to the circus arts, we foster creative opportunity, create paid work for artists and coaches, learning and collaborating to high standards. We bring extraordinary work created and performed by ordinary people and young upcoming talent alike. Through that work we enrich our local events, and our local community, and successfully engage with the community,

creating access, meaningful opportunities and more Circus Arts enthusiasts, and strong, healthy, happy people as we go.

To this end we currently have Circus-Naomi, Lisa Truscott, Sequoia Movement, and members of Airfish Circus, Pokya Entertainment, Yskynna Vertical Dance, and Hotchpotch Performance, in house at the Circus Works Devoran coaching adult evening, home ed and after school kids sessions, beginner's to advanced, for age 7-107 years!

We have a full program scheduled in house all week round to support the local community in getting and keeping fit. Also to support the local professional community, and upcoming future professionals, by providing a range of ground based and aerial circus skills training classes, plus supporting strength, cardio, flexibility, hand balancing, overcoming gravity, acro and rings classes.

EXPANDING OUR SERVICES AND COLLABORATING WITH NEW GROUPS

Since re-emerging from the Pandemic restrictions early summer 2021 we have begun to collaborate with community organisations such as Dracaena Centre Falmouth, Berryfield and Kingsman Youth Clubs in Bodmin (working in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall Police and the U+ project for vulnerable / at risk youngsters). Also with the Over 50's in the Newlyn area, via collaborative pilots with 'The Point'

VOLUNTEERS AND ACCREDITATION.

CDC currently provides work experience options and volunteer hours for young people under the 'Children's University' volunteer passport program, and can issue passports so youngsters can have their hours spent with us accredited. We currently have 5 young volunteers assisting with the in house kids classes. Amy Patrick, Lila Sefi, Oliver Lambourne, Maddie Miller and Jaia Peppiatt.

CDC also supports youngsters through their Arts Awards, their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and also has it's own accredited awards scheme, created by Charlie Ellis in 2012. We also take young people from schools who wish to do work experience with us, and are happy to report our first young volunteer post Covid (Amy Patrick) came to us 5 July 2021.

SUPPORTING LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

CDC also provides local and touring circus and movement pro's and semi pro's training, rehearsal, research and development resources. We also provide low cost venue hire to those that wish to generate their own income via freelance coaching and specialist instruction. Thus supporting them in making a decent supplemental income to their seasonal performance work. By doing so CDC ensures that in house students receive quality tuition from real, experienced and current professionals, and benefit from the wisdom of their experience, their knowledge and their guidance in relation to pursuing a career in the physical performing arts.

Between 2019 – September 2021 The Circus Works Devoran has provided training, research and development and rehearsal space in relation to the following shows, runs and works being completed:-

Into the Deep Blue	Yskynna Vertical Dance @ The Maritime Museum Falmouth
Estah's Story	Yskynna Vertical Dance @ Heartlands (featuring the Ingleheart Singers and the Red River Singers)
Bert	Pokya Entertainment, a national touring big top show
The Grunch	Pokya Entertainment, a big top and Theatre Xmas show touring Cornwall
Cirque Du Bizarre	Pokya Entertainment, a big top show touring Cornwall
Alice Formerly of Wonderland	Pokya Entertainment @ The Acorn Theatre Penzance
Cirque Du Bizarre 2021	Pokya Entertainment currently being R & D'd
A Winter's Dream	Airfish Circus @ The Acorn Theatre
Mordros	Airfish Circus @ The Acorn Theatre, commissioned as part of the Acorns 50 year celebrations
Naughty and Nice	Airfish Circus @ The Acorn Theatre
Soiree's 4 and 5	Airfish Circus @ The Acorn Theatre
Morwenna's Comb	Airfish Circus Big Top Show @ Porthleven Food & Music Festival & @ Tropical Pressure Festival, utilising recycled materials, and plastic waste in production and props
Funderdome	Airfish Circus, a geodesic dome show @ United Downs Raceway
Alice through the Looking Glass	Airfish Circus - @ The Acorn Theatre
Winter Cabaret 2021	Airfish Circus – Currently in R & D for December 2021
Our Circus	CDC Home Ed School Show @ The Acorn Theatre
Circus Works Student Gala	Circus Works Devoran students young and old @ The Acorn Theatre November 2021
Embers and Thorns	Vagabond (Youth) Circus @ The Acorn Theatre
Embers and Thorns 2020	Vagabond (Youth) Circus @ The Acorn Theatre

Work has also been undertaken to R & D 'Unguided'- directed by Adam Cawley, but has yet to be scheduled for a debut performance.

In doing all of this CDC has not only elevated the standards of learning and performance skill sets and increased the range of opportunities, but also raised the level of local resources to do so in relation to all kinds of movement, physical literacy

the physical performing arts, health and well being. It has provided meaningful occupation and healthy positive outlets for young and old within the local community too.

PROVIDING ONGOING TRAINING AND LEARNING SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

We are delighted to be able to offer our first 'bursaries' moving forward this year, via the 'Charlie Ellis Fund', in honour of the main driving force behind CDC's creation and ethos. With support grants planned to be allocated for the following:-

Mr Oliver Lambourne - on completion of a successful audition to Montreal Circus School

Miss Lila Sefi - having successfully auditioned for Exeter CAT, to study Contemporary Dance

We have two further youngsters with elite talents in need of support too. Elizabeth Smith age 12 years and Maddie Miller age 14 years.

We are also working at present to create a pilot project for local teens and young people not in employment, education or training. To be called the 'Give Voice' Project, to be piloted upon receipt of suitable funding for a 7 week period. To provide local youngsters with the opportunity to create a performance piece, and a platform on which to perform it. This pilot scheme is to inform the feasibility of creating a longer 6 month performance professional development training opportunity, under the auspices of the new government 'Kickstart' scheme to offer as a provision to local young people.

We are currently also working to support our students from the local community, to prepare for their upcoming gala performances at the Acorn Theatre in November.

On top of this we have a packed planned schedule of events for 2022, all designed to improve access to creative, artistic, healthy arts and activities, to foster strong familial bonds and community ties, and to utilise the arts as relevant and useful media and mediums in the building of a more mindful, sustainable and positive future for the region.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The charity has a Board of 6 Voluntary Trustees:-

Mr David Ellis - Secretary

Ms Clare Gwennap

Mrs Alice 'Dodie' Bridges - Treasurer

Ms Sophie Miller

Mr P M Congdon OBE

Mr William Hughes

The Charity Manager has been a voluntary post to date, however this position will be salaried before the end of 2021, and will continue to be held by:-

Ms Naomi Lewis



MEMBERSHIP

CDC has a membership made up of supporters within the local community, plus the pro's, semi pro's, associated freelancers and collective members, and the circus students that use us the most via our Open Training facility. This is because we feel it is important that those who use and support us most have input into our future development.

OUR WORKING PRACTICE

On the one hand we work to the well researched and evidenced models of Dr Reg Bolton PhD*, to bring the equally well researched range of positive benefits:-

- coping with failure
- analysing & mitigating risk taking
- learning team work
- positive personal & social development
- improved health & well being
- greater physical literacy, confidence & self esteem

With circus skill based activities as the delivery vehicle, in creative, artistic, youth, social and community contexts to the community.

On the other we work to provide performative and production opportunities to local, touring, upcoming artists and enthusiastic amateurs. We strive to provide training resources, and access to instructors in the Circus Arts, and a wide range of other movement disciplines. In order to improve and further evolve and develop the Circus Arts, performative skill sets and pedagogy. Thus increasing access to the physical performing arts regionally, raising the standards, improving knowledge and skill sets, building community ties, promoting fun healthy activities and physical literacy and mobility, supporting positive mental health and rewarding forms of expression.

Our main priorities are making the benefits of the circus arts accessible to as many as possible, and ensuring that local talent's access to a professional career is based on passion and ability, rather than financial means.

WHEN AND WHY WE CREATED THE 'CIRCUS WORKS DEVORAN'

CDC created the Circus Works in February 2019 without any external funding. We failed in our National Lottery Funding application to help create the Circus Works, but were successful in generating enough money to get going via some self produced events, community support, a little help from the corporate sector, and appearances at several local events too.

We created the Circus Works to provide a 'hub' for both the local community and the smaller circus arts community based in the region. CDC was aware that there was nowhere in the region suitably equipped



and qualified to make provisions of a standard required by professional artists, young beginner's, and the wider community alike.

We designed the Circus Works to be adaptable & flexible, able to listen and quickly respond to the requirements of its users.

For example, since September 2021 we are now able to offer sessions on site for youngsters age 2 yrs and up. We are also exploring new avenues off site with Newquay Scouts and the over 50's population in the Newlyn area.

Since June 2019 we have supported 10 young people into higher education to degree level at both Circomedia Bristol, & National Circus Centre. This year sees one of our students already training at weekends in Exeter, on top of her college course in Cornwall, to achieve her Contemporary Dance goals, one travelling to London regularly to train at National Circus Centre, (both via the CAT scheme). With another young man due to audition in Canada for continuing physical performing arts training in Montreal.

COVID-19'S IMPACT RE OUR FINANCIAL VIABILITY, RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Had we not

- Received Business Rates Relief* (£10K), and a portion of the Local Business Restriction Grant *(£8K)
- Received a small amount of (unringfenced) corporate funding.
- Generated a small amount of funding via several of our own fundraising events.
- Been permitted to make provisions for circus pros to train, and children of essential workers whilst still receiving *, during lockdowns 2 & 3.
- Been prudent in our financial administration and spending.

The effects of the pandemic and it's restrictions on our continuing health and longevity would have been terminal.

PRE LOCKDOWN

Pre lockdown restrictions CDC generated enough revenue monthly to cover it's fixed overheads in terms of rent and bills. CDC did this via in (and out of) house classes; workshops; productions and performances (for and involving children and adults); pro training and student training memberships; also via freelancer's hiring space and time (for group classes / private sessions).

Due to the diversity and variability of our provisions pre lockdown, CDC would also have unfixed variable costs per month in relation to paying for specialist services and equipment anywhere from between £500 to £3000 on top of those fixed overheads.



Pre lock down we successfully navigated a path that generated the required revenue to cover our costs sustainably, without having to rely on funding, if we were prudent and cut our cloth according to our means. These factors along with our broad spectrum Articles enabled us to be able to diversify or re-adapt any provisions falling short of being sustainable. Some provisions of benefit we ran at a loss because of the need, in which cases we would reallocate revenue from more successful projects to subsidise them. Most of our provisions being run to cover costs/ break even, not to generate profit. It also meant pre Covid that 100% of any un-ringfenced funding we received could go directly to project work.

DURING LOCKDOWN

The parameters of the legislation put in place during the first lock down shut us down completely, and eliminated 100% of our out of house performance and project work also. We were unable to continue the majority of our educational, training and performance provisions, or support the local freelancers utilising our resources. We were unable to generate any of the revenue needed to cover our fixed overheads, yet we still had to pay full fixed costs in terms of rent, service charges, insurances and utilities to our Landlord throughout.

During lock down 2 & 3 we were allowed to remain open

- to provide professional training facilities to locally based / locally stranded Circus Pro's
- to provide much needed 'Out of School' sessions to Children of essential workers

(Both of which generated very little revenue but proved to be of huge value to the health & mental well being of the community we serve.)

- to remain open to facilitate a foodbank (free produce, run by volunteers),
- to administrate the allocation of Cornish Community Foundation funds via Hardship Grants, Surviving Winter & Crisis Funds, to local folk feeling the impacts of C-19.

We continued to pay full rent, utilities etc to our private landlord, requests for his aid came to nothing. Government support via the Business Rates Relief Grant just about covered around 60% of our fixed costs in relation rental, service charge and utilities bills. Not our insurances, safety inspection fees, or additional costs such as project and instruction, accounting and administration expenditure.

POST LOCKDOWN

We aren't confident of:-

- 'bouncing back' without continuing to have a secure and stable base of operations.
- Continuing to offer the needed provisions we do for the long term. This is what is needed to truly establish and foster firm positive ties within any locality. Despite strong community, professional and multi - agency support, collaboration and appreciation of our working practice during the lockdowns.

- Being able to recruit future trainees and volunteers, or required quality, specialist personnel for facilitating those provisions, without offering some measure of confidence that they can be retained, that investing their time and energy is worthwhile.

Lesser restrictions remained until 19 July 21 so until then we were unable to:-

- offer provisions for groups larger than 5 in relation to pro's training and children of essential workers provisions.
- Avoid tough safety restrictions in relation to how foodbank administration, food deliveries and hardship grant administration could be facilitated.
- offer as much in the schedule due to the additional cleaning and ventilating required to make our premises as safe as possible.

This meant we were unable to accommodate everyone wishing to return straight away, or meet the need of those in crisis as quickly as was necessary at times.

Post the lifting of restrictions in summer 2021, our users fed back to us quickly how much they had missed the positive benefits of using the Circus Works. Many referred to it as their 'happy place', all said how coming to train and to play with us improved not only their mood, physical and mental state, but gave them the sense of belonging. Some commented that spending time with us was something of their own to hold dear.

The immediate negative effects on the community our provisions directly combated post restrictions included:-

Increased weight gain
 Breakdown of family ties
 Breakdown of community ties
 Inadequate home care support for the elderly and for the vulnerable
 Depression
 Social Anxiety
 Isolation
 Hunger
 Cold
 Unsafe space at home
 Lack of fun and meaningful things to do

Our Landlord Mr Richard Orsman, Director of 'Come To Good Ltd', informed us at the end of restrictions that he won't be renewing our lease in February 2024, despite giving us the assurances at the time we took up the rental agreement, that he wanted tenants for a long term let of at least 10 years! Our landlord initially did not want to adhere to our lease agreement and did try to bluster us out by February of 2022, however we have stood our ground and have some measure of protection from our lease, for as long as we can meet our full rental fees and additional bills from them.

Throughout the whole period of restrictions we have been charged, and paid full rent and bills. We did request that our landlord might consider assisting us with some measure of reduction, given that we were prevented from operating, but this fell on deaf ears. Ours was the only organisation majorly effected by the lock down restrictions on site at the industrial estate in his ownership, and the only organisation doing anything to support members of the local community in crisis. The rest of the estate including our landlord's business were back to trading fully within 3 weeks of

the initial restrictions. This estate is one of several large property assets our landlord manages via his company's property portfolio.

HOW WE LOOKED BACK IN MAY 2019 AT THE FIRST CIRCUS WORKS OPEN DAY



KEEPING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK & STAYING MOTIVATED MOVING FORWARD

We have re-emerged post Pandemic to continue to offer a timetable of use for the Circus Works Devoran, that encompasses children from 2 years up (both in and out of school), adults in the community who enjoy and value our services, professional, semi Professional and freelance performance artists and dancers, elite athletes and beginners alike.

We are able through our supporting freelancers and performers, to offer a wide range of learning and training options, the opportunities to rehearse and develop performance works, to collaborate across disciplines and forms, and to cross pollinate and innovate through that cross pollination.

CDC recognises that as well as starting to outgrow it's current resource provisions, due to the success of our project works, we are also maturing as an organisation. We have been model tenants and have not missed paying our full overheads throughout the last 15 months, despite being severely restricted operationally through out. Nevertheless in the face of the non- renewal of our lease in 2.5 years time we can only strive to continue the fight to maintain such resources and provisions in our region. We now have a strong community of users we cannot let down.

In establishing the Circus Works as a resource, it became the catalyst that brought the local circus and performance arts community together, created closer links between this community and the local community, and brought along with this all the great benefits and positive impacts of doing so. Now local youngsters can learn from the artists they know and look up to locally, learning all about alternative career choices, and benefiting from the wisdom of their experience.

We cannot see our provision of this space as a resource disappear from the region now we have established it, despite the impossible task of finding a suitable, affordable and secure space. Having survived the Pandemic, and being the little 'life boat' so many clung to for support during it, we see the immense value that togetherness brought in relation to our artistic survival, physical and mental health.

We strongly support the development of this project, and we are committed to assisting the Jynnji project team in the development process. We would highly value the opportunity for growth to meet our expanding need, and the opportunity to be a part of a thriving, supportive, body of social enterprise, community and cultural creatives. Should we have to endure similar circumstances to the last 15 months in the future, we would not feel so isolated in such a mutually supportive environment.

HOW WE LOOK NOW



CDC sees this combined application as an opportunity to collaborate to establish a creative performance arts hub, which can ensure long term security and high calibre resources to the organisations involved, and the communities that they benefit, empower and support.

When artists have no place of work and / or are not paid for their work, it essentially creates a vacuum where talent and creativity are undervalued and crumble to dust, often with artists and creatives having to take up other jobs to support their careers.



Artistic works speak volumes to all members of society and effect us in ways that deepen our insight into the world, culture, community and the self. This is why we support the Engine House of Culture (The Jynnji Project).

Along with this document, our latest annual report and figures, you will also find attached a sample selection of some of the feedback we have managed to gather from both our service users, our in house freelancers service users, along with some responses from the wider community and from some of our younger service users parents/guardians. We think what they have to say on our continued ability to be able to make and expand on our current provisions is all the motivation we need to reach out to you to help us continue to support and empower them.



If you can spare the time, the following links will offer greater insight into why circus works and why every area should have a circus school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNbQ6XbhZvs> - Why Circus Works – Mike Finch discussing Dr R Bolton Phd’s evidenced research

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y102lr5f0k> - Want physical literacy? Join a circus - Pamela Ford

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_I5P85CTEc - Circus and Autism – difference, creativity, community - Kristy Seymour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35cPB-CDYto> - Why I Joined the Circus After Finishing my PhD - Chris Gatti

* See ‘Why Circus Works’ Thesis Dr Reginald Bolton Phd
<http://www.holisticcircustherapy.com/ufiles/pdfs/regphd.pdf>

*See also University of Wales Institute of Physical Literacy <https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/juggling-timetable-every-school-teach-circus-skills-pe-lessons-20889>

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FROM CORNWALL NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR CHANGE

Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change is a Charity that supports community members in social, learning and engagement activities and encourages upskilling, activism and action.

We aim to deliver a high standard of diverse activities that enable people to broaden their horizons, develop confidence and resilience on the individual's journey to wherever they wish to be.

As part of this, we build and utilise relationships with other service providers, organisations and facilities that can support and enhance our existing provision. Recently, the children and family group Why Don't You? Have been using the venue at United Downs to run their engagement activities and have enjoyed making go carts, street art workshops, a race day and a historical tour of the World Heritage site. This has been both independently and in collaboration with Cirque Du Ciel and a great success.

Especially during this most challenging of times, but also as part of our philosophy, we have been seeking spaces where we can gain new and interesting experiences in a spacious outdoor setting where people can feel safe and precautions can easily be taken against Covid contamination. This site offers us all of this, and more, with its capacious parking, nature rich surroundings, accessibility, and ease of geographical location.

As an organisation, we also make use of the Scrapstore, KEAP, work with local artists like Cosmic and Rogue Theatre and would be really excited to see all our partners in one location. The threat to them in terms of secure premises is also a threat to us, our time and our ability to facilitate use of their services.

Access to the circus is another challenge to our community. Cost and geography play a part, but the current Circus Works space is situated within a busy yard that has very limited parking and less public transport access and as such, we are only able to really make use of the offer from them during summer months when they have a suitable outside venue that we can attend.

A purpose-built space would give us the opportunity to fully develop this working relationship and ensure greater access for all to this wonderful and inclusive art form. If this bid is successful, we would look to book space and use the facilities there to expand and enhance our offer and continue to enjoy the fruits of our relationships with all of the involved organisations.

Outside of the families provision, there would be huge scope to make use of the facility for all of our members, from the café that provided many of our cooked meals during the first 12 months of the pandemic to the space and open door it will provide as well as an aspirational and accessible learning environment currently lacking here in the South West

Cornwall has many talented and creative individuals and this proposal has the potential to nurture and grow this creativity and become a destination for developing skills and providing world class learning and experience in an often underfunded and overlooked area.



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30 June 2021

Dear Sir or Madam

I've been a freelance performer and circus coach living and working in and from Cornwall for the last 14 years. During which time the one continual threat to the existence of my livelihood has been finding, and holding on to suitable spaces from which to conduct my classes, and from which to rehearse and train in relation to the artistic, and performance aspects of my work.

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and other freelance professional colleagues based in the area such as Lisa Truscott, Tyrone Herlihy and Maisie Bradley, as this has been our shared experience, particularly of late.

Places such as the Circus Works Devoran are vital to our being able to earn a living, develop our skill sets and share our knowledge with the next generation of would be professionals. Our classes also support better health and wellness for the local community, and help foster strong bonds of trust between youngsters, between youngsters and their parents or carers. Also between people from all walks of life, and different socio-economic backgrounds, who share a love of all things Circus.

The last year and a half was extremely tough for us, as it became illegal overnight for us to trade, or even to R & D future works initially. Without the Circus Works we would have been isolated and unsupported, literally starving and cold in some cases. Without such a supportive base as the Circus Works for us post Covid to work from, we have no idea how we can proceed as self employed individuals and artists.

As a freelance artist it has become the norm to have to fight to pursue any artistic endeavour, having had to move on average every 2 years over 14 years of coaching in this region. Moving on to ever increasing rental fees, and ever decreasing security, having to re-establish my client base every time. My freelance artistic colleagues and I just wish the fight could be a fair one, and that the principles of hard work and dedication to excellence in relation developing specialist skill sets, and high quality being worthwhile and rewarded were true in this context.

Yours

'Circus'-Naomi

25-06-21



Hotch Potch Performance
Cambrose Farm House
Reduth
TR16 4HT
0776595574

Expression of Interest and Supporting Statement for Engine House of Culture (The Jynnji Project)

To whom it may concern,

We are extremely interested in the prospect of a new creative hub in which we, supportive organisations like Cirque du Ciel, and specialist resources like The Circus Works Devoran to grow. Interested in becoming part of a wider centre for artists via the Jynnji Project.

Cornwall has such a vibrant and creative and yet spread out and often disconnected arts scene of amazing self-started projects and businesses. It would be incredible to pull these people together in support of a new Cornish Creative hub, to support each other and for us to be able to get involved, use rehearsal and making spaces and facilities in new and exciting collaborative projects.

The Circus Works already blows us away when ever we are there, it's really great to imagine how it could grow with other businesses alongside it. We work with visual arts creating highly visual costumes and installations out of recycled materials, which cross over with circus, street theatre and storytelling. The idea of having these different facilities next to each other along with making/upcycling in one place sounds like a dream come true and has to lead to some exciting works and project for local people and the wider UK.

All of this comes at a time when outdoor arts is at the forefront the arts, events and entertainment industries as Covid restrictions come back and forth. We have found there is a huge amount of support right now from local people who really want to get their kids back in clubs and to get out, get creative, get together and see some live community arts with new appreciation. The past two years have isolated and disconnected the world and a creative hub for a network of creative people and projects who bring people together could not come at a better time.

Sincerely,
Ross Wheeler
Creative Manager
www.hotchpotchperformance.co.uk



Airfish Circus Community Arts Collective
 C/O The CDC Circus 'Works
 Unit 1 Greenbank Road
 Devoran
 Truro
 TR3 6PQ
www.airfish-circus.co.uk

15 September 2021

Instagram Followers 1,115

To whom it may concern

Facebook Followers 1,065

Airfish Circus is an informal not for profit collective of local circus professionals, semi professionals & enthusiastic members of the local community, both young & old, that enjoy putting the skills they learn at the Circus Works on show, within a safe & supportive environment. Airfish Circus is a 25-35 member family at present, from which we can forward the appropriate people to help, or to work depending on the context of the production, or event.

We create all of our own productions using the money we generate from our own performances & fundraisers. We also support local circus charity Cirque Du Ciel in their project works on site at the Circus Works & off site around the region. We usually put on at least two theatre shows of our own annually, at the Acorn Theatre Penzance. We also support both Cirque Du Ciel (CDC) & The Circus Works, in facilitating their back of house & on stage resources, for both the out of school youngsters end of year show (for CDC), & the Circus Works annual Student Gala again at the Acorn.

We began in 2016 & have brought free access big top shows, outdoor shows & workshops regularly to local events & places such as:

Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens
 Tropical Pressure Festival
 Montol Festival

The Acorn Theatre Penzance
 Love Summer Festival Plymouth

Porthleven Food & Music Festival
 Royal Cornwall Showground
 Halloween Masked Ball

Further afield we have taken works & performances to:

Exeter Arts Centre (The Phoenix)
 Barnfield Theatre Exeter

The Custard Factory Birmingham
 Boomtown Fair

Although we are a small, informal association of artists, what we have done within the locality to preserve, promote & support easy access to the Physical Performing Arts for all is significant. We are not alone in being the only micro organisation, heavily embedded within the local community performing similarly significant work.

Often this work goes unrecognised because it happens without external funding, or it happens voluntarily. During the month's of recent restrictions & hardship for many, & because our members have strong ties to the local community, many amongst us were happy to volunteer & support CDC's efforts to distribute foodstuffs from their foodbank, & shop for vulnerable folk, happy to do doorstep visits to the elderly & the isolated. We witnessed small organisations such as ours, such as CDC, along with individual members of the local community supporting those around them as tier 2 & tier 3 services dwindled.

We say all this not to 'blow our own trumpet', rather to highlight what has been going on, & to help you understand our frustrations in the face of losing our 'home', our training rehearsal, research & development spaces, the venues where we can teach, perform & pass on our knowledge dwindle just as rapidly. Pressure on available space here in Cornwall in the current climate, whether for commercial, residential, public or private sector use is already extreme.

Without the Jynnji Project we have no recourse but to try & compete for non-existent spaces, with leasing fees we cannot afford, & no guarantee of not being pushed out again in the face of such profitable demand.

We need to see real support, & real action to defend the needs of micro organisations in all sectors, public, private & voluntary from local government, before the real unmeasured, unseen losses that go along with our termination have a knock on effect on local taxpayers.

Sincerely on behalf of Airfish Circus



Ruth Hawkley



www.rebalancetherapies.com

07/06/2021

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit this letter as a statement of my official expression of interest in being a part of the suggested new collaborative creative space in Cornwall.

As an independent, self-employed soft tissue therapist, the proposition as I understand it currently would allow me to have a purpose-built room from which I could work. It is surprisingly hard to find such a room at the moment as there is a limited pool available in the first place and those that are vacant are generally either too small, too expensive or of a non-ideal placement. As well as being purpose-built this new room would be ideally placed alongside the other businesses and creative industries occupying the space, allowing me to promote and support the physical and mental wellbeing of their owners, workers and practitioners and providing me with a pre-made catchment of potential clients. This is not even including the possibilities provided by the varied footfall that such a space by its very nature would attract!

I would not wish to work 7 days a week of course so there would also be scope for me to share the room that I am using, renting it out on the days/times that I am not there, thereby providing a small passive additional income and an opportunity for another/other therapists to establish a practice on site. This has the added benefit of not just providing an opportunity for another therapist but also potentially broadening the therapies on offer and therefore attracting a wider range of clientele to the complex.

My ultimate dream however would be to think a little bigger and create a few different rooms, creating a purpose built "wellness" area. This has the potential to include many different styles of space such as massage rooms, a physio suite, sauna, yoga/workshop/meditation studio etc. This could then either be run on a rooms for rent basis, as a business with regular PAYE employees in its own right or as combination of the two. This is of course a much bigger plan than a single room for use by myself and one or two other therapists and its potential would very much rely on the opportunities granted to the proposal – budget, available space, other contributors involved etc – but it is a very feasible dream. A wellness space such as this would provide jobs and/or an affordable space to work from for a variety of therapists and potentially also both receptionist and cleaning positions, whilst being attractive to all – other collaborators, tourists and locals alike. The wellness industry is currently booming and I think this is a very exciting opportunity to create something really successful and special.

Thank you for taking your time reading this, I hope you see the huge and far-reaching potential benefits of the proposition and see fit to lend it whatever support is in your power.

Kind regards,

Rhiannon Lomax
Rebalance Therapies
07852148088
rhi@rebalancetherapies.com



To whom it may concern,

I have been asked to put together a summary of how I, as an independent, self-employed soft tissue therapist could benefit from the creation of a new collaborative creative space in Cornwall. Firstly and primarily, the proposition as I understand it currently would allow me to have a purpose-built room from which I could work. It is surprisingly hard to find such a room at the moment as there is a limited pool available in the first place and those that are vacant are generally either too small, too expensive or of a non-ideal placement. As well as being purpose-built this new room would be ideally placed alongside the other businesses and creative industries occupying the space, allowing me to both promote and support the physical and mental wellbeing of their owners, workers and practitioners whilst providing me with a pre-made catchment of potential clients. This is not even including the possibilities provided by the varied footfall that such a space by its very nature would attract!

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Thank you for taking your time reading this, I hope you see the huge and far-reaching potential benefits of the proposition and see fit to lend it whatever support is in your power.

Kind regards,

Rhiannon Lomax

Rebalance Therapies

07852148088

rhi@rebalancetherapies.com

SCRAPSTORE

<https://cornwallscrapstore.co.uk/about> This is a link to some words about what we do. Our website is www.cornwallscrapstore.co.uk Our Facebook page is Cornwall Scrapstore. **We are in strong support of this Project given that we have already lost one premises in Cambourne, despite strong local support.**

info@cornwallscrapstore.co.uk

ScrapStore is a generic term relating to resource centres that provide reusable materials to their local communities and exist in many parts of Britain. Materials are normally collected from local industry and comprise of clean, dry and non-toxic waste items. Many of these items are new, raw materials that are surplus to the manufacturer's requirements and would normally be disposed of. ScrapStores collect these materials and display them in their premises for users to take. Users generally comprise of local community organisations, such as: schools, playgroups, uniform youth organisations (i.e. scouts), theatre or pantomime companies, 'out of school' organisations, and so on. Items are then usually used in art, craft and creative play activities. Many ScrapStores provide a membership scheme whereby users pay an annual subscription for access to the ScrapStore and its materials. Materials are either charged for or provided free under the membership scheme. Most ScrapStores in the UK are either charities or not for profit social enterprises, although some are run directly by local authorities. Other authorities in the South West run their own Scrapstore as a part of their services to the public; these are Plymouth City Council, South Somerset District and Exeter City Council, Cornwall ScrapStore started life in 1994 as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company No: 2981605) in an old Co-Operative building at St. Columb Road. With an initial membership of just 60 groups Cornwall ScrapStore's reputation has grown steadily over the past 27 years and now runs two stores across the county and has an average annual membership of 500 groups, families and individuals. (Before Covid) In 1998 Cornwall ScrapStore opened the first of its satellite stores in Camborne. This was followed in 2000 by a satellite store in Liskeard. We now operate two stores one at Goonamarris near St Austell and the other is located on the Cornwall College Campus in Pool. Location and opening times are available on our website www.cornwallscrapstore.co.uk In 1999 Cornwall ScrapStore became a Registered Charity (Charity No: 1079557) and formed a Board of Trustees made up of interested and experienced local people. Since 1997 Cornwall ScrapStore has received sporadic grant funding and support from a variety of sources to help both develop services and sustain its existence. Presently Cornwall Scrapstore relies almost entirely upon income through membership with the occasional small Grant's.

Benefits The benefits of such a resource to those working creatively with children are significant. Firstly, there is free access to basic and much needed materials, such as paper, card and fabric. Secondly, there is the opportunity to sample a wide variety of unusual and exciting items that might otherwise be cost prohibitive or unavailable in the normal way. The benefits to local businesses are also significant. The availability of a project that takes unwanted materials, labelled 'waste' by most manufacturers, and offers them to the local community is in itself rewarding for socially conscious businesses. However, materials are removed with no charge to companies, therefore offering very real monetary savings. The benefits to the environment are also a significant consideration as ScrapStores save valuable resources being dumped in landfill sites or sent for incineration. Added to this are the very real savings that ScrapStores provide in the sense that members need not purchase new materials when they are taking advantage of reusable items. Public awareness of the opportunity to reduce, reuse and recycle is reinforced each time someone visits his or her local ScrapStore. Ideas for reusing resources are presented through exemplars and photographs. Often members will visit the ScrapStore to be 'inspired' by the materials, taking their cue for projects from what is on offer rather than developing a project and then purchasing the items that are needed. Each time a teacher returns to the classroom with materials from the ScrapStore he or she is representing an example of positive environmental sustainability to their pupils, and children duly respond with ideas for reusing items found in their homes for school projects. To summarise the words of Jonathon Porret: "The fact that ScrapStores exist is in itself a wonderful example of how the 3Rs philosophy works in real terms".

Letter of expression of interest and supporting statement 27-6-21**re the JYNNJI – Engine House of Culture Project****David Greeves Director Yskynna**

The above proposal to create a purpose built centre for circus and aerial arts for professionals and the community has my support as an individual practitioner and as director of Yskynna.

The current Circus Works in Devoran provides and serves both communities with excellent training and development opportunities.

Cornwall has had many artists reach great heights through its diverse background of training in the physical arts and having a centre dedicated to circus training has been a goal of many for a long time, and it is Naomi who has made this a reality.

Supporting both professional and community led training for body and mind, this creative hub project has high and achievable aspirations.

As an aerial practitioner and running Cornwall's first Vertical dance company a flat wall space with height with 4/5 anchors set out slightly from the wall would be part of a design suggestions.

Having a counterweight tower and pulley systems in place whilst having ground anchored pulley systems would facilitate ease of rigging individual points.

Outdoor space is important so any outdoor wall or courtyard with pillars would be looked at as an opportunity to develop site specific training and performance work, plus a small amphitheatre attached to the main building would provide a test ground for street art performance.

The long term aim could incorporate local, national and international workshops.

I would fully support the development to this creative hub and hope to be part of the process in its progression for aerial and vertical dance with an eye to site specific and immersive theatrical works.

Best regards

David Greeves

EMAIL THREAD RE ROGUE THEATRE'S SUPPORT OF ENGINE HOUSE OF CULTURE – (THE JYNNJI PROJECT)**Re: Creative hub**

Inbox

**Rosi Jolly <jollyrosi75@gmail.com>** Mon, 31 May, 19:59

to Charlie, ollie@roguetheatre.co.uk

Hi Ollie, hope all is going well for the rogues in the woods?

I hear you have been given notice on the space at Cornwall college and so please “meet “ Naomi from Cirque du Ciel.

We are looking at the possibilities for a creative hub and as such invite you to join the conversation. There's a meeting on Tuesday but I will leave Nome to explain further.

See you soon hopefully

Rosi

**Charlie Ellis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk>** Tue, 1 Jun, 13:49

to Rosi, ollie@roguetheatre.co.uk

Hi Rosi & Charlie

Thank you so much for the introduction Rosi. Ollie my apologies for not picking your email up in time for me to invite you along to today's meeting. In short without giving too much away at present. CDC the charity I work for, along with several other local creative/ arts organisations & businesses, are looking to create a new Creative Arts Hub for Cornwall.. One that offers the creative organisations involved long term security, and unique/bespoke premises. If this is something you would like to be part of, please do get in touch ASAP.

The project is being led by Jade Dunbar who I am sure you know and as well as CDC, we have Scrapstore, Beats & Roots Cafe, and the Buttermarket Artists thus far on board.

My number is 07966660403 if you wish to discuss this further.

Naomi Lewis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk>



Charlie Ellis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk> Tue, 1 Jun, 13:51

to **Jade**

Naomi Lewis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk>



ollie@roguetheatre.co.uk Tue, 1 Jun, 13:59

to **Rosi**, Charlie

Hello,

Yes, absolutely, please count us in.

We are in the woods with our Wonder Walks project at the moment so haven't had much chance to catch up with emails.

We would definitely like to be part of this discussion and to see what might be possible.

Thank you Rosi for including us.

Very best wishes, Ollie

Sent from my iPhone



Charlie Ellis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk> 1 Jun 2021, 14:12

to ollie

Ollie

Great to hear back from you so soon. May I please forward your email to Jade? I'm sure one of us will be in touch asap. Delighted to hear your interested.

Warm regards

Naomi Lewis <charity-manager@cirqueduciel.org.uk>



ollie@roguetheatre.co.uk 1 Jun 2021, 14:19

to Charlie

Yes, please do.

Best wishes, Ollie

Sent from my iPhone

EMAIL THREAD RE 'MECHANICAL MARVELS' SUPPORT OF ENGINE HOUSE OF CULTURE – (THE JYNNJI PROJECT)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **daniel peppiatt** <mechanicalmarvels@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, 11 Jul 2021, 12:14

Subject: Supporting Letter for Application

To: <truckstoptrapeze23@gmail.com>

Cornwall is an interesting place to be a large scale mechanical artist! There is a heritage of industrial inspiration everywhere, a relic of the mining industries of a past era. This sits in stark contrast to the inspiring natural beauty of the sea and the inland areas.

The challenges for artist such as us however is twofold, namely finding a suitable space to create and rehearse future works and shows as well as connecting with a community of likeminded individuals, working across a variety of creative mediums.

Established in 2006 on the edge of London we soon found ourselves at the forefront of an emergence of large scale mechanical street theatre and art - something that the Arts Council and the country as a whole were playing catch up on, when compared to what was happening on the continent.

Working with and supported by a huge variety of partners from French giants [La Machine](#) and [Generik Vapeur](#) through to British organisations such as [Walk the Plank](#) and [Arcadia Spectacular](#) we were soon approached to undertake more commissions than we could feasibly manage by a variety of councils, local authorities, music and arts festivals working on projects for the 2012 Olympics, Glastonbury Festival, the Uks top street theatre festivals and more.

In 2010 we were awarded An Arts Council Escalator Arts award to promote excellence in outdoor arts and as a result we created El Grando, probably the most ambitious mechanical installation seen in the UK to date, collaborating with fellow artist [Paka the Uncredible](#).

Relocating to the South West in 2012 we took a sabbatical period in 2016 to focus on smaller personal projects and family and are now undertaking new commissions and large scale projects once again to rival the most exciting anywhere in the UK.

Finding a suitable, affordable space to work and create things on such a scale has always been an issue for all artists in this area. It is for that reason that we wholeheartedly support this application and if it receives the support that it deserves we know that it will be a base for both established artists to work and collaborate on exciting new projects, as well as supporting new and emerging artists and performers in the emergence of their own art. At this far end of the country such support and the potential creation of new opportunities for developing new artists is invaluable.

If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to contact us

Dan Peppiatt - Artistic Director Mechanical Menagerie

www.mechanicalmenagerie.co.uk